

Message Text

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ACTION SS-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-01 NEA-06 /022 W

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R 150809Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4859

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LIMDIS

FOR DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY EAGLEBURGER, DIRECTOR
GENERAL LAISE

FROM FSO RODERICK M. WRIGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER, SY

SUBJECT: AFSA ON FSO DISMISSALS

REF: A. DAMASCUS 3372

B. STATE 235772

1. HAVING RECEIVED NO REPLY FROM AFSA TO REF. A DATED SEPT. 1, CONCERNING REPORTED "OUSTER" OF AMBASSADOR AKINS, I WAS STRUCK BY ELOQUENT STATEMENT CONTAINED IN REF. B BEFORE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE HEARINGS, PARTICULARLY STRONG DEFENSE OF "CANDID ADVICE" FROM FSO'S TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE. AS EMPHASIZED IN THE STATEMENT, WE CANNOT HAVE FSO'S "RELUCTANT TO EXPRESS OPINIONS FREELY BECAUSE THEY FEAR THAT THEY WILL BE SUBJECT TO PUBLIC CRITICISM, RIDICULE OR PUNISHMENT FOR ADVOCACY OF A COURSE OF ACTION WHICH MIGHT AT THE MOMENT BE UNPOPULAR."

2. MY QUESTION IS: IS NOT THE USE OF THE 90-DAY RULE AFTER AN AMBASSADOR LEAVES HIS POST A TYPE OF PUNISHMENT? IT WOULD SEEM TO ME THAT PRESS REPORTS CONCERNING THE USE OF THE 90-DAY
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RULE IN AMBASSADOR AKINS' CASE COULD UNDERMINE OUR NEW,

COMMENDABLE POLICY OF ASSIGNING YOUNG, BRIGHT FSO'S AS AMBASSADORS. WOULD SUCH OFFICERS BELIEVE THAT HAVE "UNQUALIFIED FREEDOM TO DISCUSS, DEBATE, DEVELOP AND RECOMMEND VARIOUS POLICY OPTIONS?" IF THEY SEE REPORTS AS THAT IN NEWSWEEK AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS CONCERNING DISMISSAL OF FSO BECAUSE OF "POLICY DISCORD" AND "FRANK DIPLOMATIC DISPATCHES."?

3. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON THESE QUESTIONS AND ALSO SUGGEST SUBJECT OF THE 90-DAY RULE BE TREATED IN THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S LETTER IN THE NEWSLETTER.
MURPHY

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